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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT

SUBJECT Highway and Rail Information

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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Burgas-Malko Turnovo Highway

1. There are three document checkpoints on the Burgas-Malko Turnovo highway:
 - a. Between Zvezdets (N 42-07, E 26-24) and Malko Turnovo; this check is made by Border Guards;
 - b. Between Zvezdets and Bosna crossroads (N 42-11, E 27-26), made by the Border Guards; and
 - c. At Poda bridge (N 42-27, E 27-30), just outside Burgas; this is a permanent checkpoint with sheds for the checking officials.
2. Checking is done in a routine way, as follows: After stopping the vehicle or traveler, the checking officials look at the otkrit lists (travel papers) of the travelers to see which border zone they are permitted to enter, compare the name on their otkrit list with the name on their personal passport, and the photograph on the passport with the face of the bearer. Residents of the border areas carry only personal passports, and only the stamp indicating their zone of residence is checked. Non-residents of a border district are permitted to travel only via public transportation; if they are found walking, they are arrested whether or not their documents are in order.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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- 3.. There is daily bus service between Burgas and Malko Turnovo. One bus leaves Malko Turnovo at 6:00 a.m., Zvezdets at 7:00 a.m., and arrives in Burgas at 9:30; this bus leaves Burgas at 2:30 p.m. and arrives in Malko Turnovo again at 6:00 p.m. It was planned to double this service, [redacted]

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The price of a one-way ticket from Burgas to Zvezdets is 12 leva, to a point near Brushlyan (N 42-04, E 27-25), 15 leva, and to Malko Turnovo, 18 leva.

4. The bridges on the Burgas-Malko Turnovo highway are as follows:
- A concrete bridge 10 meters long, located five kilometers north of Malko Turnovo;
 - A concrete bridge 10 meters long, located seven or eight kilometers north of Malko Turnovo, before Brushlyan;
 - A 3-arch concrete bridge, 30 meters long, located over the Veleka River between Brushlyan and Zvezdets;
 - A 3-arch concrete bridge 30 meters long, located four or five kilometers north of Zvezdets; and
 - A reinforced concrete bridge, located at Poda, over the canal connecting Mandren Lake with the Black Sea (N 4-226, E 26-30).

Burgas-Bulgari-Gramatikovo Highway

5. This route follows the Burgas-Malko Turnovo highway as far as Bosna, then branches to the east "toward" Tsarevo; between "Kondevo" and Bulgari (N 42-06, E 27-43), a short road leads off directly to Gramatikovo (N 42-03, E 27-39).¹
6. A bus leaves Gramatikovo each morning at 6:00 and arrives in Burgas at 8:30 a.m.

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Burgas-Tsarevo-Rezovo Highway

7. This route goes along the seashore from Poda to Tsarevo (now Michurin) and then to Rezovo. A bus leaves Rezovo early in the morning, arrives in Tsarevo at 5:00 a.m., and in Burgas at 9:00 a.m. It leaves Burgas at 2:00 p.m., arrives in Michurin at 4:00 p.m., and at Rezovo "sometime later" in the afternoon.

Highway Bridges near Sofia

8. The main highway bridges near Sofia are as follows:
- A reinforced concrete bridge 80 to 100 meters long over the Iskŭr River on the Sofia-Plovdiv highway just outside Sofia;
 - A reinforced concrete bridge approximately 200 meters long over a generally-dry stream bed near Ikhtiman, on the Ikhtiman-Sofia highway, said to be the longest bridge in Bulgaria;
 - A reinforced concrete bridge 80-100 meters long over the Iskŭr River on the Sofia-Pirdop highway near Sofia;

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- d. A "large" bridge near Karlovo on the Sofia-Karlovo highway; and
- e. Two large reinforced concrete bridges over the Struna River near Kyustendil, on the Sofia-Kyustendil highway.

Railroad Lines

9. The railroad lines from Sofia to Varna and Vidin leave from the north of the city, branching after they pass Mezdra (N 43-09, E 23-40) station. Railroad lines to Makotsevo (N 42-41, E 23-48), Karlovo, Kazanlik, and Burgas extend from Sofia to the east; to Plovdiv to the southeast; to Pernik (now Dimitrovo) and Petrich to the southwest; and to Dragoman (N 42-56, E 22-56) and Bankya (N 42-42, E 23-08) to the west. The line to Bankya branches off the line to Dragoman at Voluyak (N 42-47, E 23-14).
10. The Sofia-Vidin and Sofia-Lom railroads are single-track, standard gauge lines served by three passenger trains daily, two of which stop at Lom and one of which continues on to Vidin. The trains carry freight cars for Lom and Berkovitsa. The Lom line, also single-track and standard gauge, branches off the Vidin line at Brisartsa. There are tunnels between Sofia and Mezdra station [redacted] 25X1 near Bov (N 43-03, E 23-22) station, 25X1 immediately after a large steel bridge over the Iskur River. From this point on as far as Mezdra there are "many" large steel bridges over the Iskur River because the railroad follows the course of the river. There are also steel bridges over the Ogosta River near Boychinovtsi (N 43-29, E 23-19) station, over the Tsibritsa River, the Lom River near Brisartsa (N 43-40, E 23-04) station, and over the Archar River.
12. A narrow-gauge railroad operates between Tsarevo and Kostî (N 42-04, E 27-48), passing through Brodilovo (N 42-05, E 27-50), for the purpose of transporting timber from the Strandzha Mountains. The line is now being extended to a large lumber mill on the southern bank of the Veleka River 300-400 meters southwest of Kostî. An 80-meter steel bridge with three concrete piers is being constructed over the Veleka River for the new line. This line is not presently used for passenger traffic, but passenger service is being considered. A timber and parquet factory at Brodilovo is also serviced by the Tsarevo-Kostî line.
13. An electric railroad following one bank of the Iskur River from Sofia to Mezdra is under construction.
1. [redacted] Comment: No road from Bosna to Tsarevo or from between "Kondevo" and Bulgari to Gramatikovo are shown on available maps. It is assumed that the road from Bosna continues on to Tsarevo [redacted] 25X1

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